

Land, Water, and Wind

Teacher Masters: Table of Contents

Introductory Letter to Families

Welcome to the *Land, Water, and Wind* Topic.....1

Family Links

Local Landforms and Bodies of Water.....2

Request for Materials.....3

Changes in My Neighborhood.....4

Dear Families,

Our class is beginning the Science Companion® *Land, Water, and Wind* topic which will guide children through a hands-on exploration of some of Earth's landforms and bodies of water, and the ways that water and wind change the shape of the land. As they observe, describe, and investigate, children will hone their science process skills, as well as discover the various landforms and bodies of water that shape Earth's surface and learn how they were created.

The *Land, Water, and Wind* topic encourages children to build on their natural sense of wonder and curiosity about the world while they:

- Discover some of the landforms and bodies of water that make up Earth's surface.
- Build models of landforms and bodies of water.
- Examine and create maps that identify where different landforms and bodies of water are located.
- Explore how water and wind change the shape of land.
- Design solutions to prevent water and wind erosion.
- Observe how some changes to Earth's surface are quick, while most other changes take place over a long period of time.

You and your child can explore this rich topic together at home by:

- Reading geology-related science books together that your child checks out from the class Science Center or the local library.
- Visiting the web site at www.ScienceCompanion.com to find a list of recommended web sites about landforms and the processes that shape Earth's surface.
- Working together on the **Family Links** that are sent home from time to time. Your child may also want to repeat and vary some of the activities we do in class, as well as explain what they discovered and learned. Try to encourage their independent experimentation at home.

The *Land, Water, and Wind* topic will encourage children to develop a view of the earth's surface as dynamic and constantly changing. We hope the children will bring their discoveries and enthusiasm home, inviting you to learn alongside them—asking questions, discussing their work, and sharing their adventures in science.

Sincerely,

Dear Families

Name: _____ Date: _____

Family Link with Science

Local Landforms and Bodies of Water

Look closely around the area where you live. Are there any landforms or bodies of water? Draw a picture of any you can find. Include words on your pictures to describe what you see.

Request for Materials

Dear Families,

As part of the *Land, Water and Wind* topic, children create models of landforms and bodies of water. We would appreciate any materials from around the house that might be useful for this project. The following are some ideas:

- Cotton balls
- Fabric
- Newspaper
- Popsicle sticks
- Pipe cleaners (blues, greens, and browns)
- Tissue paper (blues, greens, and browns)
- Toothpicks
- Yarn (blues, greens, and browns)

If you can donate or lend any of these items, please send them in with your child by _____ . (requested date)

Thank you for your support,

Name: _____ Date: _____

Family Link with Science

Changes in My Neighborhood

Walk around your home or neighborhood with a family member and look closely at the ground. Do you see any examples of how water may have changed the land? Use words or pictures to describe what you see.